

# **QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**ON**

## **MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**

### **SESSION LAW 2001-437**

July 1, 2006 through September 30, 2006

This quarterly report is submitted to the Legislative Oversight Committee in Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (LOC), pursuant to the requirements of Session Law 2001-437. This report is for the months of July 1, 2006 through September 30, 2006 and provides information on major developments as the Division implements reform.

#### **Section I: Major developments for this quarter include:**

- **Crisis Services** - The General Assembly gave final approval to the Conference Committee version of SB 1741, the 2007 Appropriations Act. Mental Health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services received significant increases in funding.
- **Uniform Screening and Registration** – One of the goals of the Division during the transformation has been to achieve increased consumer choice. Consistent with that goal, the Division has designed an access system based upon the principle of “no wrong door.” Individuals may enter the system by calling or visiting the LME’s Access unit or they may choose to initiate services through direct contact with a provider agency. Under either scenario, the goal is to ensure that the person receives the same standardized screening to access their need for services, thus complying with the legislative requirement to have a “uniform portal.” In order for the LMEs to fulfill their responsibilities as managers of the local system, there is a need for the LME to receive timely notice that a consumer has entered into service through direct contact with a service provider. The Division has developed a standardized screening interview and registration document that will be used to achieve both of these objectives.

#### **1. Communication Bulletins # 058, 059, 060 and 061**

- Communication Bulletin #058: Services to Consumers who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deaf-Blind. The Division provided funding to a number of LMEs to create regional deaf specialty positions filled by specially trained clinicians.

- Communication Bulletin #059: Session Law 2006-142 House Bill 2077 State and Local CFAC. The Division will assist CFAC with implementing the changes necessary for the CFAC to be in accordance with the new statute.
- Communication Bulletin #060: Legislative Changes to the Structure of Area Boards. The Division outlines specific changes that relate to the composition and structure of Area Boards.
- Communication Bulletin #061: Partners for Planning Regional Crisis Services. This bulletin outlined the fifteen grouping of LMEs and their plan for the development of regional crisis facilities.

In addition to the Communication Bulletin Series, the Division released several Enhanced Services Implementation Updates to assist providers and consumers with the transition process. Six (6) updates were released, covering the following topics:

- **Training Requirements for Service Definitions** - Many of the new services have requirements for a set number of hours for training or specialized training requirements embedded in the actual service definition. The Division outlined the specific training courses and curricula to satisfy those requirements.
- **Requirements for Children Residential Treatment Facility services** – The Division clarified the new rules for Residential Level III facilities regarding “face to face clinical consultation provided in each facility four hours a week by a licensed professional.” The Division also clarified the Service Order requirements and changes to the Person Centered Plan
- **Value Options Implementation** – Challenges and issues have occurred during the transfer of authorization from the LMEs to ValueOptions. The Division has been closely monitoring the authorization process and communicating critical information to the community.
- **CAP MR/DD and Targeted Case Management** – The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the increase in the number of individuals served through the CAP-MR/DD waiver. The Division now has the capacity to add at least 200 additional individuals to the CAP-MR/DD Waiver.

## **2. Systems Development**

There were no significant system developments this quarter.

### **3. Merger of Local Management Entities**

There were no local management entity consolidations during this quarter.

### **4. Services and Programs**

- **Service Definitions:** No significant changes in service definitions this quarter.
- **Division Training:** The MH/DD/SAS Rights and Empowerment Conference convened September 15-16, 2006.
- **Waivers:** CMS has approved the increase in the number of individuals served through the CAP-MR/DD waiver.

### **5. Financing**

#### **Mental Health Trust Fund:**

As of September 30, 2006, \$50,382,310 from the Mental Health Trust fund has been used to assist in mental health reform and community expansion.

### **6. Public Outreach to Discuss System Reform**

A Transformation Update Town Hall Meeting was held this quarter in Sylva, NC. The Division shared information and listened to concerns about system transformation.

The Division continues to post on its website Questions and Answers regarding the New and Modified Service Definitions.

### **7. Rule Changes**

At the August 17, 2006 meeting, the Commission for MH/DD/SAS adopted the following:

- the proposed amendment to the Alcohol and Drug Education Traffic School (ADETS) rule 10A NCAC 27G .3803
- the proposed amendment to the Controlled substance Reporting 10A NCAC 26E .0600
- the proposed amendment to the Non Medicaid Appeals Process 10A NCAC 27I .0600

### **8. Developing Community Capacity**

- July, 1, 2006, the Division submitted the Study on Financing of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services to the LOC, the Senate and House Appropriation Committees on Health and Human Services and Fiscal Research Division.